

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 08426 131735Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /057 W
-----132038Z 051604 /75

R 131245Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4048
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 8426

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IN
SUBJ: KASHMIRE: VIOLENT CLASHES BETWEEN PRO AND
ANTI-ABDULLAH FORCES

REF: A. NEW DELHI 7593; B. NEW DELHI 7822

1. THE STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN JAMMU AND
KASHMIR TOOK A VIOLENT TURN OVER THE WEEKEND AS
SUPPORTERS AND OPPONENTS OF SHEIKH ABDULLAH CLASHED
IN VALLEY. ACCORDING TO NEW REPORTS, THE TROUBLE
STARTED WHEN AWAMI ACTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MIRWAIZ
MAULVI FAROOZ TRAVELLED TO ANANTNAG JUNE 11 WITH
SEVERAL BUSLOADS OF HIS SUPPORTERS TO ADDRESS A RALLY
ON BEHALF OF THE LOCAL JANATA CANDIDATE. BEFORE HE
SPOKE, HIS SUPPORTERS CLASHED WITH FOLLOWERS OF
SHEIKH ABDULLAH'S NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND THE POLICE
INTERVENED TO BREAK UP THE FIGHTING. PRESS ACCOUNTS
REPORT THAT FOLLOWING THE RALLY FAROOZ'S CARAVAN OF
BUSES AND CARS WAS ATTACKED BY NATIONAL CONFERENCE
SUPPORTERS WIELDING STONES AND BRICKBATS ON THE ROAD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 08426 131735Z

BACK TO SRINAGAR. SEVERAL REGULAR PASSENGER BUSES
CARRYING TOURISTS AND SCHOOLCHILDREN WERE ALSO
CAUGHT IN THE FRAY. AT ONE VILLAGE ON THE ROUTE,
FAROOZ'S SUPPORTERS SET FIRE TO A GROUP OF HOUSES
BEARING NATIONAL CONFERENCE FLAGS.

2. SRINAGAR WAS REPORTED TO BE TENSE ON JUNE 12 AS

SHOPS WERE CLOSED AND THE POLICE ATTEMPTED TO DEAL WITH SMALL GROUPS OF YOUTHS THROWING ROCKS. AN OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN SAID THAT 74 PEOPLE HAD BEEN INJURED IN THE PREVIOUS DAY'S VIOLENCE. THE KASHMIR MOTOR DRIVERS ASSOCIATION CLAIMED THAT 123 BUSES BELONGING TO ITS MEMBERS HAD BEEN DAMAGED AND WENT ON STRIKE TO PROTEST POLICE INEFFECTIVENESS AT GUARDING THE ROADS.

3. COMMENT: THE 1977 STATE ELECTIONS PROMISE TO BE THE MOST HOTLY CONTESTED -- AND THE FAIREST -- IN THE CHEQUERED POLITICAL HISTORY OF J&K. UNLIKE IN EARLIER RACES, WHEN RIGGING AND BLATANT GOJK MAL-PRACTICES IN ARRANGING FOR UNCONTESTED SEATS WERE OFTEN THE RULE, THE OUTCOME OF THE BALLOTING SCHEDULED TO BEGIN JUNE 30 IS UNCERTAIN. WITH ELECTION LISTS NOW FINALIZED, IT APPEARS THAT VOTING UW VIRTUALLY ALL CONSTITUENCIES WILL INVOLVE TRIANGULAR CONTESTS AMONG THE CONGRESS, JANATA, AND NATIONAL CONFERENCE. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, FEELING IS RUNNING HIGH, AND ISOLATED OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE HADNYEEN REPORTED EVEN BEFORE THE WEEKEND'S DISTURBANCES.

4. THE ANTAGONISM BETWEEN THE TRADITIONAL FOLLOWERS OF THE MIRWAIZ AND THOSE OF SHEIKH ABDULLAH DATES BACK SOME 40 YEARS. IT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN HEIGHTENED BY THE SHEIKH'S DETERMINED BID TO REGAIN POWER COUPLED WITH THE DECISION ON THE PART OF FAROOA'S AWAMI ACTION COMMITTEE TO GIVE ACTIVE SUPPORT TO THE JANATA.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 08426 131735Z

(EMBASSY WILL BE FILING A MORE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON THE KASHMIR ELECTION PICTURE AS MORE INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE TO US.)

QA

5. SAMACHAR TICKER TODAY CARRIES NO FURTHER NEWS OF VIOLENCE IN THE VALLEY. WE HAVE BEEN SEEKING UNSUCCESSFULLY TO CONTACT AUTHORITIES IN STATE SO THAT WE CAN ADVISE PROSPECTIVE TOURISTS WHO APPROACH EMBASSY ABOUT WISDOM OF TRAVELPENG TO KASHMIR AT THIS TIME.
GOHEEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, PROVINCE, CIVIL DISORDERS, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NEWDE08426
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770210-1061
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770663/aaaacdxx.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 972b4f7e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 NEW DELHI 7593, 77 NEW DELHI 7822
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2176301
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KASHMIRE: VIOLENT CLASHES BETWEEN PRO AND ANTI-ABDULLAH FORCES
TAGS: PINT, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/972b4f7e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009